

#### IV. CLAIMS

1-16. Canceled

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27 ~~claim 16~~, wherein the mammal is a human.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 27 ~~claim 16~~, wherein the mammal is at increased risk of developing sepsis as a result of a surgical intervention or a weakened immune system.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for determining the severity of a septic condition and making a prognosis for the further course of the sepsis or septic shock in a mammal, or for monitoring a treatment of sepsis or septic shock in a mammal, which suffers from sepsis or septic shock, wherein the apoCI content is determined in a blood sample of the mammal.

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 19, wherein the mammal is a human.

21. Cancelled

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claim 21~~ claim 27, wherein the peptide binds to lipoteichoic acids and wherein the composition is for preventing or treating a sepsis or septic shock in mammals.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the shock is caused by Gram-negative bacteria.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the mammal is a human, horse, cow, dog or cat.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the shock is caused by Gram-positive bacteria.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the mammal is a human, horse, cow, dog or cat.

27. (New) A method for treating a mammal suffering from or is at increased risk of developing sepsis or septic shock comprising administering to such mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a peptide and pharmaceutically acceptably adjuvants where the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO.:11.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 where the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:1.

29. (New) A method of increasing the immune response produced in mammal by the presence of toxic components of bacteria by administering to such patient an immune response increasing amount of a peptide comprising the amino acid of **SEQ ID NO.:11**.

30. (New) The method of claim 27 where the peptide comprises SEQ ID NO.:2.

31. (New) The method of claim 27 where the peptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.:2.

32. (New) The method of claim 32 where the mammal is a human.

33. (New) A method of increasing the immune response produced in mammal by the presence of toxic components of bacteria by

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administering to such patient an immune response increasing  
amounts of a peptide of SEQ ID NO.:2.